

Dec.
1963



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

(CLEVELAND)

Churchmen Call For Civic Action

"The practice of good citizenship is an essential part of the Christian life. As Christians we cannot and must not avoid responsibility for political affairs. . . The fear of compromise must not deter us from participation or from continued effort for more adequate embodiment of Christian objectives."

These words, taken from the Message of the National Conference on the Churchman as a Citizen, reflect some of the sober thinking of 120 representatives present by their synods and conferences to meet on the campus of Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania, the weekend of June 20-22.

Sponsored by the Laymen's Fellowship, the Churchmen's Brotherhood, and the Council for Christian Social Action, the men considered such questions as: Do Christians have a responsibility for



Discussion group at Churchmen's Conference discusses civil liberties with Dr. Ray Gibbons, Director of the Council for Christian Social Action.

political life? How is loving our neighbor related to politics? What problems develop when church groups become involved in public issues? What do we mean by the separation of church and

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Launch Emphasis On Daily Work

For some years, the Protestant and Orthodox denominations, cooperating through the National Council of Churches, have selected two themes for special emphasis in the areas of home missions and foreign missions, respectively. This has made it possible to secure a wide variety of fresh resources in a given area through cooperative action at the local and national levels.

A few years ago, the membership of the National Council's Division of Christian Life and Work and the groups having parallel program responsibilities in the several denominations agreed that there would be value in selecting, in addition, a theme for such coordinated emphasis in the area of social education and action. As a result, it was arranged that, without diminishing attention to the continuing needs in all aspects of social responsibility, each year special efforts would be made and special materials or programs prepared in one particular field. Thus, social welfare was emphasized during the period 1956-57, and race relations in 1957-58.

The area chosen for the year beginning with the summer of 1958 is economic life, and the specific theme is "The Social Responsibility of Christians in Their Daily Work." What more fitting topic to correlate the activities of the men's fellowship, the women's group, the official board, the youth fellowship, the social action committee, and the other interests within the local church! And what more fitting time to begin such an emphasis than the month of September when Labor Day reminds us of the importance of being

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WORKERS AND JOBLESS AROUSE CONCERN

A number of social policies of concern to working men and women have recently received the attention of responsible church groups. The General Board of the National Council of Churches at its meeting in Minneapolis in early June adopted a statement on Christian Concern about Unemployment, presented by the Department of the Church and Economic Life. At the same meeting the Council's Division of Christian Life and Work approved the issuance of the 1958 Labor Sunday Message. Pastors are receiving a copy of this with this issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY and may order additional copies from the National Council at \$3.50 per hundred.

At the same time, the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ issued a statement on National Responsibility and Areas of Need, the text of which appears on page 2 of this issue.

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CALL FARM CONFERENCE

The Council for Christian Social Action, in cooperation with the Town and Country Church departments, will hold a two-day Consultation on the Church and Farm Problems at the Kirkwood Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa, November 10-11.

Major addresses will be given by Lauren Soth, editor of the *Des Moines Register and Tribune*; by Dr. Walter Wilcox, of the Library of Congress Legislative Reference Service; and by Professor Victor Obenhaus of the Chicago Theological Seminary.

Attendance will be limited to social action and rural church committees of selected midwestern synods and conferences, with a view to defining the problems in agricultural relations and developing a program of education and action for our church.

WORKERS AND JOBLESS AROUSE CONCERN

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The Congress has adopted legislation permitting the states to borrow funds with which to extend by 50 per cent the period during which jobless workers may receive unemployment benefits. Hearings have been held on proposals to increase the level of Old Age and Survivors' Insurance. Senator Douglas's Area Redevelopment Bill (S. 3683) referred to in the CCSA statement (item 3) has passed the Senate but at time of writing had not been acted on in the House.

* * * *

Well organized efforts are being made in a number of states (Ohio and California, for example) to push through legislation prohibiting labor-management contracts that provide for a "union shop." Such bills, called by various names—such as "right to work" or "freedom of opportunity" laws—have been opposed by organized labor as encouraging the "free rider" and intended to weaken labor's position. South Illinois Synod and Southern California Conference are among the bodies in our denomination which have followed the Division of Christian Life and Work of the National Council of Churches in condemning such laws. The Council for Christian Social Action has not taken a position but has requested its committee on economic life to study the issues involved.

* * * *

Out of all the hearings on corruption in labor and management there have developed both moderate and punitive measures for labor reform. Among the Senate-approved bills is one which provides for public disclosure of pension and welfare funds—whether financed by labor, by management, or by both—and the Kennedy-Ives bill which, while requiring secret elections at stated intervals, public financial reports, and other reforms, also restores the right of strikers to vote in representation elections. So, according to a *New York Times* story, certain business groups, after crying for labor reform legislation, have lost their enthusiasm for these bills and are quietly trying to have them bottled up in the House Education and Labor Committee for "full hearing."

* * * *

Social welfare agencies and church groups have also been troubled by current efforts to make state public assistance laws unduly stringent. Residence requirements are already restrictive and unrealistic in the face of the present-day mobility of our population. Other proposals which may work

NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND AREAS OF NEED

*A Statement Adopted by the Council
for Christian Social Action of the
United Church of Christ—
June 12, 1958*

The Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ is deeply troubled by the economic fluctuations which are presently causing unemployment and suffering for many individuals and families in our land. As Christians we affirm that our economic institutions and relationships, like the whole of human life of which they are a part, are important in the sight of God and from the point of view of our faith. What the economic order does to people, whether through excessive luxury or through deprivation of opportunity, matters profoundly for those who believe in a sovereign Creator. And for those who believe in a just God, justice in economic relations is a moral imperative which cannot be evaded.

So, too, we affirm the principle that in the life of groups and nations the strong must bear the burdens of the weak and the whole has a responsibility to see to the welfare of each part. In the present economic maladjustment it is noticeable that unemployment is particularly severe in certain types of jobs, in certain industries, and in certain areas of the country. It is, of course, true enough that a recession may go far enough to affect the whole population seriously; but at the present time mounting unemployment has been reported in certain sectors of the economy, and chronic underemployment has become characteristic of certain communities.

In this situation we would call the attention of leaders in church and state to certain implications of these principles:

1. Since man has both the responsibility and the right to earn his living under conditions which are just to him, to his associates, and to the community as a whole, it is essential that measures be taken to make possible necessary and meaningful work for all who are capable of such work. Where such employment is not available, unemployment compensation should be

sufficient to enable the worker and his family to maintain comfort, health, and dignity.

2. It is the responsibility of the various interests of the entire community—management, labor, and government—to devise ways of combating unemployment, inflation, and severe economic dislocations, whether local or general in their nature.

3. We commend the adoption of measures to provide information, technical assistance, special loans, and public facilities in areas suffering persistent unemployment, as proposed in the Area Redevelopment Act (S. 3683, 85th Congress), so that both urban and rural areas so affected may be strengthened without increasing the economic difficulties of other communities or areas.

4. We urge the Administration, the Congress, and the states to take steps to counteract the present recession through wise appropriations for public works, through a lightened tax burden especially for low income groups, and through the removal of existing obstacles to the payment of supplementary unemployment benefits.

5. We favor the adoption of legislation to extend coverage by unemployment insurance to groups which are not presently eligible, so that in the future they may have this measure of protection.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations ten years ago, affirms the basic right of everyone to "protection against unemployment." The churches, both as individual denominations and together in the National and World Councils of Churches, have expressed their convictions as to the evil of involuntary unemployment. It is important that we should act on these convictions before the problem becomes any greater and more difficult to handle.

It is also important that our economic recession should not lessen our efforts for a larger program of foreign economic assistance and for the lowering of trade barriers between nations. Just as the health of our own economy conditions our contribution to world economic development, so international trade and a healthful world economy have a salutary effect upon employment and economic growth in this country. Both domestic and foreign policies must be fashioned wisely with a view to strengthening the weak and sharing their burdens.

hardship would deny public assistance to unwed mothers or persons who otherwise violate accepted moral standards. They are regarded by many responsible public officials, as well as by welfare workers, as a return to a punitive rather than remedial approach.

LAUNCH EMPHASIS ON DAILY WORK

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Christian in one's vocation (which means, literally, "calling.")

The Need

A series of great lay movements and meetings have reminded us of the importance of the ministry of the layman and his service to God in his daily occupation. The churches of Europe, traditionally clergy-controlled and looking "in" on the concerns of institutional and devotional life, have pioneered in "evangelical academies" and other vocationally oriented expressions of Christian concern. The Amsterdam and Evanston assemblies of the World Council of Churches made much of the layman in his vocation. At Buffalo, the American and Canadian churches held a North American Conference on the Christian and His Daily Work. At Tiffin and at Chicago, the Evangelical and Reformed and the Congregational Christian laymen, respectively, held conferences dealing with this theme.

In spite of all this, however, there are still men and women in our churches who think of being Christian in their work in such terms as avoiding profanity and inviting their associates to church. These are commendable practices, but they are perfectly proper off the job as well as on! They do not relate to the job as such!

Or, when individuals or groups do get to thinking about what being Christian means *on the job*, they bog down in generalities — like getting to work on time, not cheating on their expense accounts or income tax returns, or giving "a fair day's work for a fair day's pay." Good again — but again, perhaps, not good enough! What more is involved — in the stockholders' meeting, at the bargaining table, in the selling "game"? What decisions do I make there that

nobody but I, and perhaps others like me in the same position, *can* make, and *must* make if we are to serve our neighbors in Christ's name and make the social order more responsive to God's will?

So, very appropriately, the Department of the Church and Economic Life of the National Council of Churches has entitled the leaflet announcing this Emphasis: "A Fair Day's Work — What More?" And that is what church groups throughout the world may well ask themselves again and again during the coming twelve months.

The Program

How will they do it? In a sense, that is up to each local church and group within that church. But some fascinating possibilities present themselves and some exciting materials have been prepared to help realize them.

Some groups will want to conduct a *study program* using a discussion guide, such as *You, Your Church, and Your Job* (40c), based on the Evanston report. A church or group of churches in an association, synod, or council of churches might *conduct a conference*, using *Religion in the Day's Work* (35c), based on the Buffalo Conference.

A novel way to arouse *discussion* is by the use of *You, Too, Can Play 20 Questions* (25c), which poses problems calling for decisions in that many different kinds of situations. Or, you might have a *forum* led by representatives of related but distinct occupations—such as physician and social worker, or labor representative and industrial relations executive.

Incidentally, all the above-mentioned materials, *plus* additional resources—including an issue of *Social Progress*, organ of the Presbyterian Department of Social Education and Action—are in the new program packet, *The Responsibility of Christians in Daily Work*, which may be ordered from the CCSA for *only one dollar*.

Then, if it is an audio-visual you need to make a situation concrete and to elicit discussion you can buy *The Biggest Thing in Middletown*, brand new 83-

frame color cartoon filmstrip, with use guide and mimeographed script, for \$12.50 from the Bureau of Audio-Visuals of the United Church of Christ in Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, or St. Louis (or write the Bureau for rental rates).

One further word. If your men's group is tired of discussions that never seem to result in action, or is wondering how you will ever get its silent members to participate, here is a topic that is guaranteed to loosen tongues, stir consciences, and—who knows—put churchmen to work being the church where their efforts count and are needed most.

CHURCHMEN CALL FOR CIVIC ACTION

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state? What are some of the issues that concern us and why? What "handles" can we take hold of to fulfill our duties as citizens?

The conference began with Bible study, under the leadership of the Reverend C. Shelby Rooks, able pastor of Lincoln Memorial Temple (Congregational), of Washington, D. C.; heard two stimulating addresses by Dr. Roger L. Shinn of the Vanderbilt University Divinity School; and sat in on a panel in which a Congressman, a Senator's counsel, a mayor, a state official, a defeated candidate for office, and a Washington "bureaucrat" participated. But most of the work was done in small groups.

After hours, a findings committee worked to put together the thinking which emerged from these discussions. On Sunday morning, following a communion service conducted by the college pastor, Dr. Alfred L. Creager, and Dr. James E. Wagner, co-president of the United Church, a Message drafted by the Findings Committee was presented, vigorously discussed, amended, and adopted.

We hope to reproduce this Message in the next issue of *Christian Community*. In the meantime, multilithed copies of the conference report are available from the Cleveland office of the Council, at 25 cents each.

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

August 31 or September 7—Use the Labor Sunday Message.
 September 9-11—Council for Christian Social Action, Hotel Statler, Cleveland, O.
 October 7-9—World Order—United Nations Seminar, New York, N. Y.
 October 19—World Order Sunday.
 November 10-11—Consultation on the Church and the Farm Problem, Kirkwood Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa.
 November 18-21—National Study Conference on the Church and World Order, National Council of Churches, Cleveland, Ohio.
 February—United Church of Christ Month of Emphasis on Christian Social Action.
 February 3-6—Churchmen's Washington Seminar, Washington, D. C.
 February 5-7—Council for Christian Social Action, Buck Hill Falls, Pa.
 February 8—Race Relations Sunday.

Meditations For Travelers

The interest expressed by those who have for a number of years taken part in the various Christian Social Action Travel Seminars has inspired Dr. Ray Gibbons, Director of the Council for Christian Social Action and leader of a good many of these study tours, to prepare a pocket-size booklet of *Meditations for Travelers*. It contains 36 one-page meditations on a variety of appropriate themes with suggested scripture and prayers.

Attractively printed, with a presentation page, this is an ideal gift for pastors or others to give individuals or families going abroad for business reasons or national service as well as on vacation trips. Copies may be ordered at 35 cents—10 or more for 25 cents each—from the offices of the Council for Christian Social Action.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER, 1958

News and Program Service of the
 Council for Christian Social Action
 of the United Church of Christ
 Ray Gibbons, Director

Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscription, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, \$2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

NEW! A MANUAL FOR CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION—IN YOUR CHURCH

At last it is out—the long promised *Manual for Christian Social Action*. Ever since the organization of the Council for Christian Social Action on June 27, 1957, the Council members and staff have been conscious of the need for a basic guide for local churches that wish to know what Christian social action is or how to develop a more effective social witness. Though both the Congregational Christian and the Evangelical and Reformed social action agencies had such handbooks, something new and better was needed—something that was up to date, something that reflected the situation and met the need of the United Church.

The Manual, 16 pages, size 8½ x 11 inches, is attractively illustrated by Chester Tanaka, art consultant for *Social Action* magazine. It contains chapters, none more than three pages and most of them less, on the meaning of Christian social action, issues that call for social action, goals for Christian social action, and resources. There are helpful sections on "Who Carries Responsibility?" and "Discover Potential Leaders."

Single copies at twenty cents, ten or more at fifteen cents each, may be secured from either New York or the Cleveland office of the Council.

DON'T MISS THE TWELFTH WORLD ORDER AND UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR—OCT. 7-9, 1958

For two and one-half days, one hundred men and women will meet in New York to ask what government, the United Nations, and the churches are doing for peace, freedom, security—and what they ought to be doing. Conducted by the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ, the Seminar will bring experts from government, the United Nations, the churches, and citizens' organizations, with opportunity for questions and discussion as well as a tour through the

United Nations building and a visit to its committee sessions. A high spot of the seminar, for first-time visitors especially, is luncheon in the Delegates' Dining Room.

The Seminar opens Tuesday, October 7 at 9:30 a. m. and closes Thursday noon, October 9. Tuesday and Thursday sessions will be held at the Carnegie Endowment International Center, United Nations Plaza at 46th St.; Wednesday, at the United Nations. The cost is \$6.50 for registration and the seminar dinner, plus transportation and lodging, the UN tour, and other meals.

Lodging for a limited number of registrants may be arranged at the Congregational Christian Service Center, 110 East 29th St., New York 16; for others, at nearby hotels. To register or secure additional information, write to the Reverend Herman F. Reissig, Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

"In Your Hands"

1958 marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations. That representatives of nations from all over the world should agree on a statement of basic human rights is an event of great significance.

Thirty-four organizations, including the Council for Christian Social Action, have joined in sponsoring an attractive booklet entitled *In Your Hands—Guide for Community Action*. Illustrated with many striking photographs, this booklet contains detailed suggestions for study and action in the area of human rights based on the Universal Declaration. The Declaration is printed in full. The booklet contains a valuable list of program study aids, films, filmstrips, and recordings.

Order your copy from the New York office of the CCSA. The price is 50 cents.

OUR MISTAKE

We made a mistake in our last issue and—too optimistically—announced that the *Voting Record* of the 85th Congress would be available at 5 cents each, July 15. We were wrong on both counts. The cost is TEN CENTS each for individual orders, \$7.50 per hundred (cash with order), and August 15 is the date.

HOWEVER—don't you make a mistake and delay your order. Both the New York and the Cleveland offices will be happy to serve you. For—of course—you want—in the words of our denominational Conference on the Churchman as a Citizen—not only "to vote" but "to vote intelligently."